

We claim:

1. A toner replenisher for an electrographic imaging machine, comprising:
a replenisher housing defining a toner passage;
an agitator drive shaft extending into the replenisher housing;
5 a rocking mechanism connected to the agitator drive shaft; and,
a toner agitator mounted to the agitator drive shaft within the toner passage, the
toner agitator comprising a plurality of fingers extending toward the inlet end.
2. The toner replenisher of claim 1, wherein the toner agitator comprises a first
agitator body defining at least one of the fingers, and a second agitator body
10 defining at least another of the fingers.
3. The toner replenisher of claim 1, wherein the toner agitator comprises a first
agitator body defining at least one of the fingers, and a second agitator body
defining at least another of the fingers, the first agitator body and the second
agitator body being spaced from and opposing each other.
- 15 4. The toner replenisher of claim 1, wherein the toner agitator comprises a first
agitator body defining at least one of the fingers, and a second agitator body
defining at least another of the fingers, the first agitator body and the second
agitator body being spaced from and opposing each other, and further
comprising an agitator base connecting the first agitator body and the second
20 agitator body.
5. The toner replenisher of claim 1, wherein the toner agitator comprises a first
agitator body defining a plurality of the fingers, and a second agitator body
defining another plurality of the fingers, the first agitator body and the second
agitator body being spaced from and opposing each other.
- 25 6. The toner replenisher of claim 1, wherein the toner agitator comprises a first
portion that defines a plane, at least one of the fingers extending from the first
portion and defining an axis at an angle to the plane.

7. The toner replenisher of claim 6, wherein the toner passage comprises a sloped wall, and the angle extends the at least one of the fingers toward the sloped wall.
8. The toner replenisher of claim 1, wherein the toner agitator comprises a first portion that defines a plane, at least one of the fingers extending from the first portion and defining an axis at an angle to the plane, another of the fingers extending from the first portion and defining an axis parallel to the plane.
9. The toner replenisher of claim 1, wherein:
the toner agitator comprises a first portion that defines a plane, at least one of the fingers extending from the first portion and defining an axis at an angle to the plane; and,
the toner agitator comprises a second portion that defines another plane, at least another of the fingers extending from the second portion and defining an axis at an angle to the plane.
10. The toner replenisher of claim 1, wherein the toner agitator further comprises at least one finger comprising a first finger portion extending toward the outlet end, a third finger portion extending toward the inlet end, and a second finger portion connecting the first finger portion and the second finger portion.
11. A toner replenisher method for an electrographic imaging machine, comprising:
rocking a toner agitator disposed within a replenisher housing by rotating an agitator drive shaft extending into the replenisher housing, the replenisher housing defining a toner passage, wherein a toner agitator is mounted to the drive shaft, the toner agitator comprising a plurality of fingers extending toward the inlet end.
12. A toner replenisher for an electrographic imaging machine, comprising:
a replenisher housing defining a toner passage comprising an inlet end;
an agitator drive shaft extending into the housing;
a toner agitator mounted to the drive shaft within the toner passage; and,
a funnel disposed at the inlet end and comprising an inlet mouth that matches a toner bottle mouth and an outlet mouth smaller than the inlet mouth.

13. The toner replenisher of 12, wherein the funnel is a separate piece placed in the inlet end.

14. The toner replenisher of 12, wherein the funnel is a separate piece placed in the inlet end, the inlet end defining an inlet end mouth that does not match the toner bottle mouth.

15. The toner replenisher of 12, further comprising a pair of seals around the inlet mouth.

16. A toner replenisher for an electrographic imaging machine, comprising:
a replenisher housing defining a toner passage comprising an inlet end;
an agitator drive shaft extending into the housing;
a toner agitator mounted to the drive shaft within the toner passage, the toner agitator comprising a plurality of fingers extending toward the inlet end; and,
a funnel disposed at the inlet end and comprising an inlet mouth that matches a toner bottle mouth and an outlet mouth smaller than the inlet mouth.

17. The toner replenisher of 16, further comprising a pair of seals around the inlet mouth.

18. A toner replenisher for an electrographic imaging machine, comprising:
a replenisher housing defining a toner passage comprising an inlet end;
an agitator drive shaft extending into the housing;
a toner agitator mounted to the agitator drive shaft within the toner passage; and,
a funnel at the inlet end and comprising an inlet mouth that matches a toner bottle mouth and an outlet mouth smaller than the inlet mouth;
a pair of seals around the inlet mouth.

19. A replenisher assembly for an electrographic imaging machine, comprising:
a toner replenisher defining a toner passage comprising an inlet end;
a toner bottle defining a toner bottle mouth attached to the inlet end;
a toner flow restrictor comprising a gap adjacent the toner bottle mouth between the toner bottle and the toner replenisher; and,

a seal outside the toner flow restrictor between the toner bottle and the toner replenisher.

20. The toner replenisher of claim 19, wherein the toner flow restrictor comprises a ridge on a sealing face of the toner replenisher, and the seal comprises an elastomeric gasket.

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